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Acting United States Attorney Lawrence G. Brown
Eastern District of California

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CONTACT: Lauren Horwood
PHONE: 916-554-2706
edcapress@usdoj.gov

FRESNO MAN PLEADS GUILTY FOR POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY *Agrees to 15-Year Prison Term*

FRESNO, Calif.—Acting United States Attorney Lawrence G. Brown announced today that KEITH ALAN BRECKENRIDGE, 20, of Fresno, pleaded guilty today before United States District Judge Lawrence J. O'Neill to one count of possession of images of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct. As part of his plea agreement, the defendant agreed to a prison term of 180 months and a lifetime term of supervised release.

This case is the result of a joint investigation by the Fresno Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and the Fresno Police Department Sexual Assault Unit. The investigation is part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafchildhood.gov.

According to Assistant United States Attorney David Gappa, who is prosecuting the case, BRECKENRIDGE was arrested on March 19, 2008, after a probation compliance check was performed. He was on probation as a result of a conviction on December 4, 2006, in the California Superior Court, Fresno County, for sexual battery.

BRECKENRIDGE admitted that from January 2008 through March 19, 2008, he possessed on an Archos Wi-Fi multimedia player more than 600 images of child pornography. Some of the images were of prepubescent children and some depicted violence and/or sadistic abuse. The defendant also admitted that he had engaged in a pattern of sexual abuse or exploitation of one or more minors.

BRECKENRIDGE has been detained as a flight risk and danger to the community since his initial appearance in federal court on April 10, 2008. The court scheduled sentencing for March 27, 2009, at 8:30 a.m. At that time the court can either accept the plea agreement, allow the defendant to plead guilty without an agreement, or set the case for trial. The maximum sentence is 20 years, there is a potential \$250,000 fine, a lifetime term of supervised release.

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